MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). The member is referred to G. O. R. O. C. No. 2391/30/Judicial, dated the 3rd April 1930, published at pages 649 and 650 of the *Government Gazette*, dated the 8th April 1930, which contains the information required.

Appointment of women vaccinators in the Sanitary Department.

81. MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any rule, written or grown out of general practice, that women vaccinators should not be appointed in the Sanitary Department; and

(*b*) if so, the reason for such a rule?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) In December 1923, the Government, accepting the view of the then Sanitary Commissioner, ordered that the appointment of female vaccinators in rural areas should be discouraged.

(*b*) Past experience has shown that female vaccinators cannot discharge the work satisfactorily in rural areas in view of the extensive area of the Vaccination Ranges.

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): The answer to part (*b*) says:—

"Past experience has shown that female vaccinators cannot discharge their work satisfactorily in rural areas in view of the extensive areas of the Vaccination Ranges."

Do the records show that women were found *unfit*?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. In fact there were four female vaccinators before in the Department. They were posted to rural areas. After studying their work, the Sanitary Commissioner reported that the arrangement was full of difficulties, both to the female vaccinators themselves and to the Government—to the female vaccinators in that they had to walk 6 to 10 miles from the headquarter stations where they might live to reach the places where they might be posted to vaccinate; and to the Government because the Sanitary Officer would have to take them to these stations for verification of cases vaccinated?

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): That may entail difficulties to the female vaccinators. But did it entail difficulties for the department, so far as their work was concerned?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; it was also reported by the Sanitary Commissioner that their work was unsatisfactory. Within the course of one year some of them took maternity leave and other kinds of leave for months. They were not available for work for about two or three months.

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): That applies to women in all departments.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That is inevitable, but there is this fact that within the short period of a year, one or two of them were on leave for more than two or three months.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): But was there a fall in the number of cases vaccinated by the women vaccinators?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I gave the substance of the Sanitary Commissioner's report. I shall read what he says:

> "Coming now to the 4 permanent female vaccinators, one out of a service of 1 year 10 months and 6 days till the end of this year was on 3 months and 20 days' leave on account of pregnancy and now she is on duty with a child in her arms. The second has been on leave for 5 months out of a total service of 1 year 11 months and 9 days and she is now advanced in pregnancy. The third had one month's leave out of a service of 10 months and her work was unsatisfactory as noted in my inspection notes sent with my letter No. 149 dated 30th August 1923 and the last is put in the Vaccine Depot as being the least harmful of the places. As the Sanitary Officers have to go to distant places for verification where it is most required and to take the Female Vaccinators with them to show the cases vaccinated by them, all alone, passing through mostly unfrequented paths, it would produce bad impression on the minds of observers and the travelling of 8 to 10 miles by females when they are pregnant or leaving the infant behind for 6 to 8 hours continuously when they have infants in arms are neither proper in respect of maternity nor of child welfare."

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): Apart from the difficulties experienced by women, do the Government feel it desirable to appoint women?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Even at present there is no rule that they should not be entertained.

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the matter?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): If the member will offer some suggestions to get over the difficulties mentioned they will be considered.

Establishment of a Munsiff's Court at Arukutti.

82. **MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI** (*Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have enquired into the causes for the frequent establishment of Additional Munsiffs' Courts at Shertallai and Vaikam nowadays;

(*b*) if so, the causes that have been brought to their notice; and

(*c*) whether the question of a Munsiff's Court at Arukutti has received the attention of the Law's Delays Commissioner?

MR. T. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Heavy pendency of suits due to the present territorial jurisdiction of courts.

(*c*) The question will be considered by the Law's Delays Commissioner in connection with the general redistribution of the territorial jurisdiction of Civil Courts.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly